

Message Text

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PAGE 01 PARAMA 00352 261846Z
ACTION IO-13

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ARA-06 EA-07 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00
CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-08 INR-07 LAB-04 NSAE-00
SIL-01 L-03 DHA-02 OIC-02 SS-15 NSC-05 SP-02
/108 W

-----261858Z 128815 /45

R 261508Z APR 77
FM AMEMBASSY PARAMARIBO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3319
INFO AMEMBASSY BRIDGETOWN
AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN
AMEMBASSY KINGSTON
AMEMBASSY NASSAU
AMEMBASSY PORT OF SPAIN
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
USMISSION GENEVA

C O N F I D E N T I A L PARAMARIBO 0352

EO 11652: GDS
TAGS: ILO, ELAB, NS
SUBJ: ILO AFFAIRS--CARIBBEAN LABOR MINISTERS' MEETING

REF : (A) STATE 77291, (B) 75 STATE 259540, (C) STATE 36080,
(D) STATE 28264

1. IN ACCORDANCE WITH INSTRUCTIONS REF A, CHARGE HAS MET WITH
GOS LABOR MINISTER FRIJMERSUM, LABOR DIRECTOR MCLEOD, AND
ACTING FOREIGN AFFAIRS DIRECTOR HENAR TO DISCUSS ISSUES
LIKELY TO ARISE AT JUNE ILO CONFERENCE AND TO REQUEST GOS
SUPPORT OF U.S. POSITIONS. ALL THREE OFFICIALS PROMISED TO
STUDY U.S. POSITIONS CAREFULLY WITH A VIEW TO DETERMINING
WHETHER GOS COULD SUPPORT THEM.

2. BOTH MINISTER FRIJMERSUM AND HENAR EXPRESSED THE HOPE THAT
U.S. WOULD BE ABLE TO CONTINUE TO PARTICIPATE IN THE ILO,
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THOUGH NEITHER COULD OFFER ANY COMMITMENTS ON EXTENT TO
WHICH SURINAM COULD SUPPORT U.S. AT UPCOMING ILO MEETING.
FRIJMERSUM, FOR EXAMPLE, SUGGESTED THAT POLITICAL QUESTIONS
MAY WELL BE PROPER FOR DISCUSSION IN SOME CASES IF ILO IS TO
ACHIEVE ITS OBJECTIVE OF SOCIAL JUSTICE, WHICH FRIJMERSUM
CONSIDERED ITS MOST IMPORTANT GOAL.

3. DIRECTOR MCLEOD SAID THAT SURINAM'S MAJOR CONCERNS IN THE ILO WERE TECHNICAL AND LABOR ISSUE RELATED, CITING TREATMENT OF CIVIL SERVANTS AND LABOR ADMINISTRATION AS TOPICS OF CURRENT INTEREST. HE REQUESTED THE FULL TEXT OF U.S. PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO ARTICLE 17 OF THE CONFERENCE STANDING ORDERS SO THAT HE COULD STUDY THEM IN DETAIL.

4. MINISTER FRIJMERSUM CONFIRMED THAT HE WILL ATTEND MAY MEETING OF CARICOM LABOR MINISTERS IN GEORGETOWN AS AN OBSERVER. HE EXPECTED THAT TWO OFFICIALS OF THE LABOR MINISTRY WILL ATTEND PRECEDING WORKING SESSION.

5. COMMENT: EMBASSY BELIEVES SURINAM WOULD JOIN IN SUPPORT OF U.S. POSITIONS ON ILO ISSUES IF THEY CAN DO SO AS PART OF A CARIBBEAN CONSENSUS. ALTHOUGH GOS WILL NOT BE ABLE TO VOTE AT MEETING OF CARIBBEAN LABOR MINISTERS IT WILL HAVE A VOICE WHICH CAN GENERALLY BE EXPECTED TO BE MODERATE AND UNDERSTANDING OF THE U.S. CONCERNS.

6. ACTION REQUESTED: REQUEST DEPARTMENT CABLE FULL TEXT OF PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO ARTICLE 17 OF CONFERENCE STANDING ORDERS WHICH WE WILL PASS ON TO LABOR MINISTRY.
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